

**20**  
tips to  
improve  
**ALL** of your  
fashion  
sewing

- 20. Facings that fit**  
Pin front facing to front of garment, then back facing to back. Where they lap over the seam, snip. Sew, matching snips.
- 19. The "painless placket" sleeve**
- 18. Sticky tapes used for perfection—**  
zippers, plaids, loops, pockets
- 17. Test fabric** for shrinkage and shine.
- 16. Proper pinning—**  
angle toward center.
- 15. Turn of cloth—**  
under layer is smaller.
- 14. Enclosed seams—**  
grade, understitch, or press open.
- 13. Good marking**  
saves time and improves accuracy: snipping, tracing paper, etc.—darts, pockets, and some seam lines
- 12. Keep the pattern tissue and guide out until the garment is done.**
- 11. Mistakes multiply—**  
Pin pieces together immediately after removing pattern, check fabric against pattern, check to see both collar points are the same, etc.
- 10. Stabilize bias—**  
Check edge length against pattern. Change grain of interfacing. Tape bias edges to prevent stretch.
- 9. Perfect stitching—**  
continuous and taut sewing, turning corners, and easing. Except for sleeves, put the stable layer on top, such as lining or stabilizing tapes. Feed dogs will ease the longer back shoulder seam to fit the front shoulder seam.
- 8. Sewing curves to straight edges—**  
clip curved edge.
- 7. Buy a serger!**
- 6. Use interfacing properly.** Tips for selecting, cutting and fusing interfacing.
- 5. Perfect jacket sleeves**  
Use Armo-Rite or loosely woven wool to ease the cap.
- 4. Buy the right size pattern. Tissue-fit, alter pattern, and fabric fit.**
- 3. Understand garment ease.**
- 2. Plan ahead** so you can look good in the finished garment.  
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- 1. Create a permanent sewing space.**

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**TIPS ARE TAKEN FROM THESE PALMER/PLETSCH BOOKS AND DVDS:**

**BOOKS:** *Mother Pletsch's Painless Sewing* • *Fit for Real People* • *Pants for Real People* • *Jackets for Real People*. *Looking Good* • *Bridal Gowns* • *Dream Sewing Spaces* • *Couture, the Art of Fine Sewing* • plus all serger books  
**DVDs:** *Perfect Fusing* • *Sew a Shirt or Blouse* • *Fit for Real People: Basics* • *Pants for Real People* • *Jackets for Real People* • plus serger DVDs.

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